

MIT Endowment Has 3.2 Percent Yield, Even As U.S. Markets Slide

By Emily Prentice
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Despite the faltering economy, MIT's endowment increased by \$88 million, or 3.2 percent, according to figures for fiscal year 2008 released by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Investment Management Company. The endowment now stands at \$10.1 billion as of June 30, 2008.

Woes in the financial sector caused the endowment to grow far more sluggishly this year than in fiscal year 2007, when it grew by 22.1 percent. Nonetheless, MIT's endowment return outpaced the Standard and Poor's 500 Index, which dropped by 13.1 percent in fiscal year 2008.

"Investment gains were broadly spread across MITIMCo's diversified portfolio, with private equity, real estate, and fixed income securities performing particularly well," according to the MIT News Office.

At the State of the Institute Forum on Sept. 29, President Susan J. Hockfield said that at MIT, the financial officers' "watchwords are 'vigilance' and 'prudence.'"

Due in part to the growth of the endowment, MIT will have a balanced budget for the fiscal year

2009. "This is the first balanced budget MIT has had in many years. A balanced budget means we can focus on the future," said Hockfield during the State of the Institute Forum.

Most colleges have had difficulties wrangling profits from the troubled markets. According to the Boston Globe, a survey of 165 large institutions (of similar size to Harvard and Yale) found the average endowment return to be negative 3.0 percent for fiscal year 2008.

Both Harvard and Yale saw smaller increases than in previous years. Harvard University reported an 8.6 percent return on its currently \$36.9 billion endowment, according to the *New York Times*. In the previous year, Harvard's endowment earned a 23 percent return.

Yale University, historically a leader in endowment gains, reported only a 4.5 percent return on its investments this year, increasing its endowment from \$22.53 billion to \$22.9 billion. In the 2007 fiscal year, Yale received a 28.0 percent return, the largest among academic institutions.

MITIMCo, is a division of MIT

Endowment, Page 14

McCain, Obama Policy Advisors Debate Future of U.S. Energy

Omar Abudayyeh

Representatives from the Obama and McCain campaign faced off in last night's presidential energy debate, co-sponsored by the MIT Energy Initiative and the MIT Energy Club. Both Jason Grumet, adviser to Obama, and James Woolsey, adviser to McCain, agreed that the US must reduce its oil dependence, but argued over financing a transition away from

oil.

Moderated by Tom Ashbrook of the NPR talk show "On Point," the debate focused on energy security, challenges related to the climate, and energy supply and demand.

Woolsey, who directed the Central Intelligence Agency under the Clinton administration, said that the McCain plan allows states to decide how to switch to alternative energy.

Obama's plan is more detailed, and outlines a centralized plan for greening the energy supply, according to Grumet, executive Director of the National Commission on Energy Policy. Obama's plan will invest \$15 billion into renewable energy research, adding to the \$2.5 billion currently being spent.

Energy Debate, Page 14



FRANK M. YAUL

Former Director of the C.I.A. R. James Woolsey (left) and executive director of the National Commission on Energy Policy Jason Grumet debate energy policy as campaign surrogates for U.S. Presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama (respectively) at Kresge Auditorium on Monday evening.

Chancellor Clay's E-Mail to Community Warns About Irresponsible Hacks, Piracy

By David Zhu

In an e-mail sent to the student body on Sept. 25, Chancellor Philip L. Clay PhD '75 reminded students to hack responsibly and to stop downloading copyrighted works. An almost identical e-mail was sent last October.

The letter was meant to remind potential hackers that the tradition should not be a pretext for "doing whatever you like," Clay said. No

specific incident prompted the letter, Clay said.

In the letter, Clay reminded hackers to abide by the "hacking code of ethics," which requires hackers to take responsibility for their actions and not create public hazards. "We have to re-embrace the true hacking tradition," Clay wrote.

On Sept. 29, protesters hacked the Stata Center cafeteria, covering the hacks on display with black tarp.

Next to the water fountain, police car, and cow, large mock violation notices were hung, detailing how the displays violated Clay's "hacking code of ethics."

Clay's letter also asked students to maintain their integrity both inside and outside of the classroom by avoiding plagiarism and illegal downloading. Clay said another mes-

Clay, Page 12

Reid Appointed to Role At UNCF, Leaves Position As Director of the OME

By Yuri Hanada
STAFF REPORTER

Karl W. Reid '84, Director of the MIT Office of Minority Education since 2005, was recently appointed Senior Vice President of Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives of the United Negro College Fund in Fairfax, VA. The search for his replacement is currently underway.

Noted as a "growing national presence on the issues of educating minority students within majority institutions," by Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel Hastings, Reid became involved with minority education at MIT in 1998 as Director of Engineering Outreach Programs, where he directed the nationally recognized Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science (MITES) Program, an academic summer program for promising high school juniors. He additionally founded the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Program and Saturday Engineering Enrichment and Discovery (SEED) Academy, two academic and mentoring programs for local middle and high school students.

"My goal was to increase access to opportunities for students who would benefit from pre-college programs," Reid said. "First, we had to raise the [MIT] endowment for MITES, since eighty percent of the funding was external, and then we

parlayed the strength of MITES to start the SEED Academy to involve the local community."

In 2005, Reid assumed the role of Director of the OME where he focused on ensuring the academic success of minority students. "With an approach driven by data and successful experiences at other institutions, Dr. Reid started several new programs aimed at supporting and enhancing the experience of our students, especially focus[ing] on graduate school options," said Hastings.

According to Reid, one of his main objectives was to increase graduate school matriculation of MIT minority students, whether it be Masters or PhD. programs. "We want[ed] to raise the level of expectation within MIT and show that students of color can perform at high levels," added Reid. Reid's other initiatives included increasing minority student grade point averages and graduation rates.

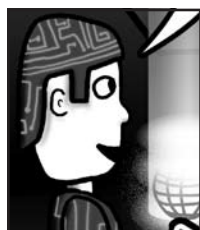
When asked what MIT could still improve upon in terms of minority education, Reid replied that MIT needs to continue working on building connections between minority students and faculty and staff. "The faculty members at MIT are excellent content experts, but they need to realize the value of diversity

Reid, Page 13



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH

Elephants from the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus walk down Massachusetts Ave. past Building 1 on Monday evening. The elephants, along with other circus animals, were being transported from train cars behind Simmons Hall to the TD Banknorth Garden.



Comics

Page 8



Sigma Kappa's
Late Night
draws crowd
to Kresge

Page 10

OPINION

Washington's culpability
in the credit crisis

Page 4

The 'Me' culture at MIT

Page 5

World & Nation 2
Opinion..... 4
Campus Life..... 7
Ask SIPB..... 13
Sports..... 16

WORLD & NATION

Emerging Markets Find They Feel Wall Street's Pain

By Alexei Barrionuevo

THE NEW YORK TIMES

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Emerging markets took one of their biggest collective tumbles in a decade Monday as stock markets from Mexico to Indonesia to Russia were gripped by fears of a meltdown in Europe's banking system and concern that a global recession could drag down the price of commodities, forcing a steep slowdown in emerging-market growth.

Many of the world's fastest-growing economies thought they had insulated themselves from problems in the developed world. But economists said that simultaneous turmoil in Europe and the United States was too much to bear. "The potential of a global recession is awakening emerging markets that they will be hit stronger than we thought before," said Alfredo Coutino, a senior economist at Moody's, the credit-rating agency.

At the beginning of the global trading day, Asian markets were hit by fears that weakening economies in the United States and Europe would increase the chances of a downturn in Asian exports. The Standard and Poor's/Australian Stock Exchange 200 Index in Sydney declined 3.3 percent, the Nikkei 225 Index dropped 4 percent in Tokyo, and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong fell 5 percent.

Bush Offers An Implicit Campaign Message: 'Judges Matter'

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CINCINNATI

When he ran for office in 2000, President Bush vowed to appoint "more judges like Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia." On Monday, the opening day of the Supreme Court's new term, Bush came to the critical swing state of Ohio to remind Americans that he has lived up to that promise — and to make the case, if only obliquely, that so would Sen. John McCain.

"The lesson is clear: Judges matter to every American," Bush told members of the Federalist Society, a conservative legal group, after ticking off a list of narrowly decided Supreme Court decisions, including two he regards favorably — one upholding a ban on the medical procedure critics call partial-birth abortion, and another overturning a ban on gun ownership in the District of Columbia.

"Our belief in judicial restraint is shared by the vast majority of the American people," Bush said, adding that he had kept his pledge to "seek judges who would faithfully interpret the Constitution — not use the courts to invent laws or dictate social policy."

Iraqi Christians Protest Election Law

By Erica Goode and Stephen Farrell

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

About 75 Christians and others gathered at a church here on Monday to demand that the Iraqi parliament reinstate a section of an earlier version of the provincial elections law that ensured political representation for Iraq's minorities.

The provision, which provided council seats for Christians and two other minority groups, was dropped before the parliament approved the elections law on Sept. 24.

"We have a question mark at this point about why our government is rejecting us," said Thair al-Sheekh, a priest at Sacred Heart Church in Baghdad, who attended the late afternoon gathering. "They told us we don't have a place in our government, and we don't know why."

Marwan Arkan, 20, said that the situation for Christians in Iraq was still perilous. Last week, he said, he was kidnapped by gunmen as he walked to Sacred Heart Church, where he works. The kidnappers held him for three days, he said, beat him and finally let him go, for reasons that were unclear to him.

Fed Weighs a Radical Intervention in Debt Market

By Edmund L. Andrews and Michael M. Grynbaum

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

As pressure built in the credit markets and stocks spiraled lower around the world on Monday, the Federal Reserve was considering a radical new plan to jump-start the engine of the financial system.

Under a proposal being discussed with the Treasury Department, the Fed could buy vast amounts of the unsecured short-term debt that companies rely on to finance their day-to-day activities, according to officials familiar with the discussions. If this were to happen, the central bank would come closer than ever to lending directly to businesses.

While the move would put more taxpayer dollars at risk, it underscores the growing sense of urgency felt by policymakers in a climate where lending has virtually dried up.

The plan was being formulated amid cascading losses in global stock markets, as the banking crisis spread across Europe and investors feared dire consequences for the world economy. The Dow Jones industrial average fell as much as 800 points before

a late recovery, finishing down 369.88, below 10,000 points for the first time since 2004.

Even before bankers on Wall Street reached their desks, European stocks were plunging. The Russian stock market dropped 19.1 percent, the biggest decline since the fall of the Soviet Union. Major indexes in London and Frankfurt lost more than 7 percent; stocks in Paris fell by 9 percent. Stocks in Latin America and other emerging economies took their worst collective tumble in a decade.

Volatility reached the highest level in two decades, and oil prices fell below \$90 for the first time since February.

"There is a growing recognition that not only has the credit crunch refused to be contained, it continues to spread," said Ed Yardeni, an investment strategist. "It's gone truly global."

Investors are worried about what the evaporation of credit will do an already-weakened global economy. In the United States, consumers appear to be significantly curbing spending; last month, employers cut more jobs than any month in five years. The \$6 decline in oil prices, which settled at

\$87.81 a barrel, stemmed in part from fears that demand will slacken in the face of a deteriorating economy.

The Fed plan is intended to renew the flow of credit on which the economy depends. Under its plan, the central bank would buy unsecured commercial paper, short-term IOUs issued by banks, businesses and municipalities.

The market for that kind of debt has all but shut down in the last week, with many major corporations unable to borrow for longer than a day at a time. The volume of such debt totaled about \$1.6 trillion as of Oct. 1, down 11 percent from three weeks earlier.

A healthy world economy relies on the easy flow of such short-term loans among banks, businesses and consumers, a stream that has been choked as banks become more fearful of giving out cash.

Those fears persisted over the weekend despite the \$700 billion bailout package that Congress approved last week. The cost of borrowing from banks and corporations remained high on Monday, increased in part by a series of high-profile bank bailouts in Europe, where governments scrambled to save several major lenders from collapse.

As Crisis Spreads, Investors Fear Worldwide Recession

By Mark Landler

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

When the White House rolled out its \$700 billion rescue plan two weeks ago, its sheer size was meant to soothe the global financial system, restoring trust and confidence. Three days after the plan was approved, it looks like a pebble tossed into a churning sea.

The crisis that began as a made-in-America subprime lending problem and radiated across the world is circling back home, where it pummeled stock and credit markets on Monday.

While the Bush administration's bailout package offers help to foreign banks, it seems to have done little to reassure investors, particularly in Europe, where banks are failing and countries are racing to stave off panicky withdrawals after first playing down the depth of the crisis.

Far from being the cure for the world's ills, economists said, the rescue plan might end up being a stopgap for the United States alone. With Europe showing few signs of developing a coordinated response to the crisis, there is very little on the horizon to calm rattled investors.

The vertiginous drop in stock markets on both sides of the Atlantic on Monday reflected not only those fears, experts said, but a growing belief that the crisis could tip the world into a global recession.

Indeed, the ripple effects from Europe and the United States were amplified as they spread to stock markets in Russia, Brazil, Indonesia and the Middle East.

These countries had little to do with the subprime crisis but were vulnerable to a sudden halt in the flow of money. They lack even the veneer of national or regional cooperation that

protects Europe and the United States. Stock markets in emerging economies recorded their worst one-day decline in 21 years on Monday, with trading in Russia and Brazil halted to stem investor panic.

"It looks pretty ugly down the road," said Simon Johnson, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund who specializes in financial crises. "Everybody is going to get caught up in this."

The global nature of the crisis and its growing collateral damage, Johnson said, ought to galvanize countries to work together to fashion a concerted response. There is a chance to do that this week, with dozens of finance ministers and central bankers converging on Washington for the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank.

WEATHER

Nashville: 100 Percent Chance of Precipitation for the Second Debate

By Elizabeth Maroon

Tonight marks the second presidential debate at Belmont University's Curb Event Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Unfortunately, moderator Tom Brokaw and the two candidates are in for rain, preceding a cold front that should pass through Nashville on Wednesday. Weather has long had a psychological effect on the human psyche. How will this affect the debate? Will the rainy skies cast shadow on either candidate, making either seem unqualified? Will McCain make use of the thunder for dramatic effect? Or perhaps, Obama will show flashes of clarity with every lightning strike.

While Obama and McCain are on the campaign trail, we are still here in lovely Cambridge working on problem sets and research. With high pressure over New England for the next few days, we have a few lovely fall days ahead of us. A cool high pressure will build up over us on Tuesday, and bring frost advisories to regions on the outskirts of the Boston metropolis. The high pressure should dominate until a trough approaches on Wednesday bringing clouds by the evening and a slight chance of rain on Wednesday night and Thursday. However, it does not appear that there will be enough moisture to warrant anything more than scattered precipitation.

Extended Forecast

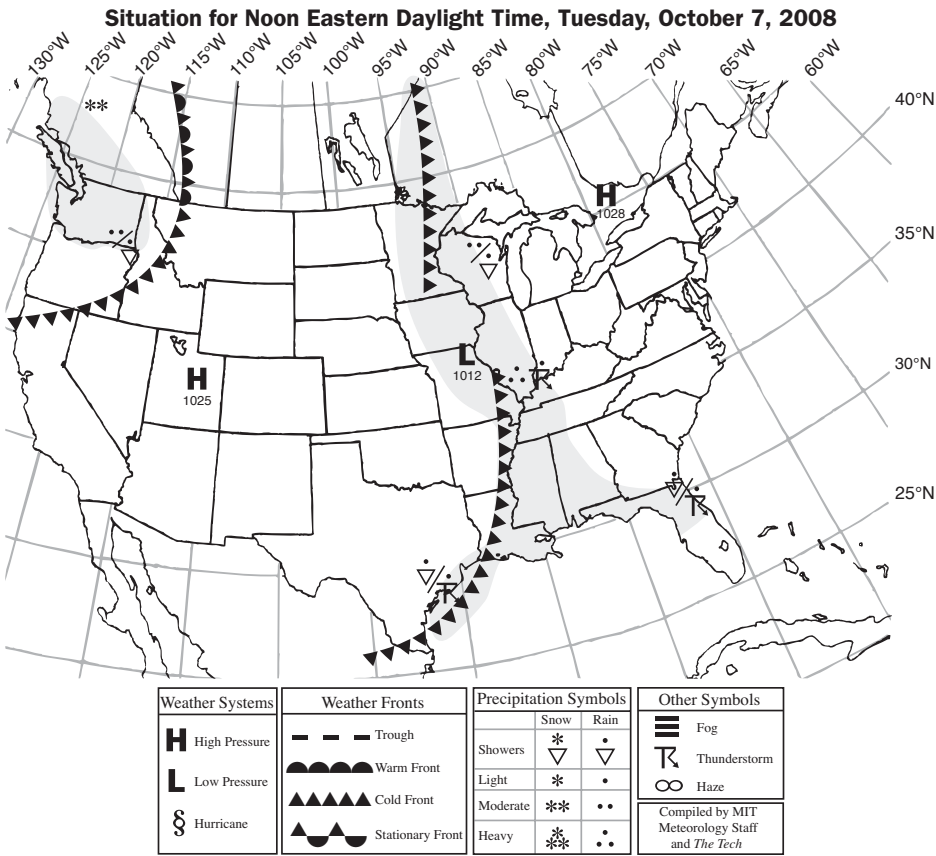
Today: Sunny with highs around. High 64°F (18°C).

Tonight: Clear with a low around 45°F (7°C).

Wednesday: Again sunny with a high around 74°F (23°C).

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Low in the mid 50s°F (13°C).

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers. High in the mid 70s°F (24°C).



Lehman’s Chief Defends His Actions As Prudent for Time

By **Bernie Becker**
and **Ben White**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Richard S. Fuld Jr. blamed the news media. He blamed the short-sellers. He blamed the government, as well as what he characterized as an “extraordinary run on the bank.”

But the chief executive of Lehman Brothers Holdings, the bankrupt remnant of a once-great investment house, never really blamed himself.

Instead, in his first public appearance since Lehman’s collapse, Fuld said in sworn testimony before a congressional panel on Monday that while he took full responsibility for the debacle, he believed all his decisions “were both prudent and appropriate” given the information he had at the time.

That stance did not sit well with angry members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, who peppered Fuld with hostile questions about the hundreds of millions he made over the last eight years.

Members of the committee, several of whom mispronounced Fuld’s

name as “Fold” or “Food,” also hammered the Lehman chief executive for making what they described as rosy public statements about the bank’s health that did not reflect a scramble for cash behind the scenes.

“People want to know if you defrauded investors,” said Rep. John L. Mica, R-Fla., who also informed Fuld at one point that he needed to understand his role as the designated “villain” of the day.

Describing himself as a “Lehman lifer” who joined the bank 42 years ago and had never worked anywhere else, Fuld said he was haunted by the collapse.

“I wake up every single night wondering what I could have done differently,” he said. “This is a pain that will stay with me the rest of my life.”

Fuld, by turns combative and contemplative, and often pained by interruptions of his answers, repeatedly denied that any misrepresentations took place. Even when confronted with internal documents that seemed to tell a different story, Fuld said he believed until five days before the Sept. 15 bankruptcy filing that Lehman remained in decent

health.

“No, sir, we did not mislead our investors,” Fuld said in response to a question from Dennis J. Kucinich, D-Ohio, who wanted to know how Fuld’s public statements could be valid in light of efforts by JPMorgan Chase to secure \$5 billion in extra collateral from Lehman in the final days.

“To the best of my ability at the time, given the information I had, we made disclosures that we fully believed were accurate,” Fuld said.

He said that Lehman might have survived had the Federal Reserve moved faster to help investment banks borrow from the Fed. He also noted that Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley were allowed to transform themselves quickly into bank holding companies after Lehman’s collapse. Lehman had tried a similar move months earlier without success.

Fuld and other Lehman executives are facing preliminary inquiries by federal prosecutors into whether public statements about the bank’s position amounted to fraud. That might have explained the lawyerly tone Fuld often adopted during two hours of questioning.

Race’s Last Stage Has Appearance of a Grudge Match

By **Adam Nagourney**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama entered their general election contest this summer denouncing American politics as trivial and negative, and vowing to run campaigns that would address the concerns of voters during a difficult time.

But McCain made clear on Monday that he wanted to make the final month of the race a referendum on Obama’s character, background and leadership — a polite way of saying he intends to attack him on all fronts and create or reinforce doubts about him among as many voters as possible. And Obama’s campaign signaled that it would respond in kind, setting up an end game dominated by a dark invocation of events and characters from the lives of both candidates.

The change in tone formed a backdrop for the nationally televised debate between the two candidates on Tuesday night, the second of their three scheduled encounters. It comes when McCain is under increasing pressure to do something to turn

around his campaign, with polls giving Obama an advantage in the race and in who Americans trust more to deal with the economy, the issue that now trumps all concerns.

Yet in shifting toward a more negative and personal message, the two campaigns risked seeming detached from the economic anxieties of voters at a time when the financial system is teetering. The risk could be especially great for McCain, who has ceded political ground to Obama during the financial crisis and has taken the more combative stance in recent days.

A lacerating speech he gave Monday — “Who is the real Barack Obama?” McCain asked — was shown on cable television juxtaposed with images of another horrible day on Wall Street. “Whatever the question, whatever the issue, there’s always a back story with Sen. Obama,” McCain said, speaking in Albuquerque. “My opponent’s touchiness every time he is questioned about his record should make us only more concerned.”

During the day, McCain’s running mate, Gov. Sarah Palin, raised ques-

tions about Obama’s “truthfulness and judgment.” McCain’s supporters sought to focus attention on Obama’s associations with his former pastor and a onetime 1960s radical. The Republican National Committee called for an investigation into questionable campaign contributions to Obama.

Obama’s campaign responded by releasing a slick, 13-minute video describing McCain’s connections with the Keating Five banking scandal that tarnished McCain during the 1980s, a video that Obama’s advisers said had been held in wait in case this moment arrived. Obama’s aides portrayed McCain as angry and impetuous. Obama scolded his opponent for trying to turn attention away from the economy.

“I can not imagine anything more important to talk about than the economic crisis,” Obama said, campaigning in Asheville, N.C. “And the notion that we’d want to brush that aside and engage in the usual political shenanigans and scare tactics that have come to characterize too many political campaigns, I think is not what the American people are looking for.”

Georgian Press Sees Many Restrictions on Its Freedoms

By **Dan Bilefsky**
and **Michael Schwartz**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TBILISI, GEORGIA

The cameras at Georgia’s main opposition broadcaster, Imedi, kept rolling Nov. 7, when masked riot police officers, armed with machine guns, burst into the studio. They smashed equipment, ordered employees and television guests to lie on the floor and confiscated their cell phones. A news anchor remained on-screen throughout, describing the mayhem. Then all went black.

The pretext for the raid — which silenced the channel — was a government claim that Imedi was fomenting unrest when it broadcast a statement by one of its founders, Badri Patarakatsishvili, promising to topple the government of President Mikheil Saakashvili.

Earlier that day, riot police officers lashed out with clubs and fired rubber bullets at unarmed anti-government protesters. A nine-day state of emergency followed.

Now, 11 months later, Georgia’s democratic credentials are again be-

ing questioned, and tested, as the country finds itself on the front line of a confrontation between Russia and the West.

Georgia and its American backers, including the Republican and Democratic U.S. presidential contenders, have presented Georgia as a plucky little democracy in an unstable region, a country deserving of generous aid and NATO membership. But a growing number of critics inside and outside the country argue that Georgia falls well short of Western democratic standards and single out a lack of press freedom as a glaring example.

Saakashvili, a telegenic New York-trained lawyer, came to power in 2004 after a wave of protests known as the Rose Revolution, promising to shed the authoritarianism of the past. Lincoln A. Mitchell, a Georgia expert at Columbia University, contended that Saakashvili now presided over a “semiauthoritarian” state, while saying that it was also the most democratic of the former Soviet states in the region.

“The reality is that the Saakashvi-

li government is the fourth one-party state that Georgia has had during the last 20 years, going back to the Soviet period,” he said. “And nowhere has this been more apparent than in the restrictions on media freedom.”

In its most recent report, Freedom House, a human rights research group based in New York, ranked Georgia, in terms of press freedom, on a level with Colombia and behind Nigeria, Malawi, Indonesia and Ukraine — the last a NATO aspirant, like Georgia.

A 2008 State Department report on Georgia’s democratic progress noted that respect for freedom of speech, the press and assembly worsened during the 2007 crisis, and that there continued to be reports of “law enforcement officers acting with impunity” and “government pressure on the judiciary.”

Sozar Subari, Georgia’s ombudsman for human rights, an independent watchdog appointed by parliament, accused the government of stifling press freedom by ensuring that sympathetic managers were installed as directors at national broadcasters.

A Pro-Church Law Opens Doors To a French Mosque

By **Steven Erlanger**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

STRASBOURG, FRANCE

The Alsace-Moselle region is the great French exception. Having been variously French and German in the last few centuries — annexed, presumably for the last time, by Hitler’s Germany before returning to France after World War II — Alsace-Moselle still has a German feel, with rounded edges.

While France is a model for the centralized state, Alsace-Moselle is different, especially on the question of politics and religion. Because the region was German in 1905, when France passed major legislation separating church and state — a policy known as laicite, usually translated as secularism — the local government continues to involve itself in the established religions, providing a wide variety of subsidies and even religious education in the public schools.

Extraordinarily for secular France, here the state not only helps to finance the construction of places of worship but also approves the appointments of clergy members and even pays their salaries.

But not for Islam. Muslims are now the second-largest religious group in this region of 2.9 million people, and there is considerable debate about whether and how to extend to Islam the support given to other religions. The questions vary from Muslim education in the public schools to the size of a new mosque partly built along the banks of the Ill River, and even whether the mosque should be allowed to have a minaret.

Financial Crisis Takes a Toll On Already-Squeezed Cities

By **Susan Saulny**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHICAGO

After the layoff of 160 full-time and part-time city workers, the slashing of recreation programs and a call for volunteers to shelve books at the branch libraries (open two days a week now instead of six), the people of Duluth, Minn., thought they had seen the worst of a bad year for the municipal budget.

To help close a gap of more than \$6 million that yawned open over the summer, the city on Lake Superior had considered selling its prized Tiffany stained-glass window depicting Longfellow’s American Indian character Minnehaha, a one-of-a-kind work donated by a civic group more than 100 years ago.

City officials across the country say they are feeling increasingly squeezed as the national economic crisis eats away at the core sources of municipal revenue.

Add to that the abrupt and unexpected loss over the last several weeks of usually sound investments and credit in the municipal bond markets — the place to which local governments turn for relatively cheap, fast money — and it becomes clear that cities are facing their own financial crisis, arguably the worst in decades.

A Mixed Message On Health Effects of Hard Times

By **Tara Parker-Pope**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Most people are worried about the health of the economy. But does the economy also affect your health?

It does, but not always in ways you might expect. Whether the current economic slump will take a toll on your own health depends, in part, on your health habits when times are good. And economic studies suggest that people tend not to take care of themselves in boom times — drinking too much (especially before driving), dining on fat-laden restaurant meals and skipping exercise and doctors’ appointments because of work-related time commitments.

In May 2000, the Quarterly Journal of Economics published a surprising paper called “Are Recessions Good for Your Health?” by Christopher J. Ruhm, professor of economics at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, based on an analysis measuring death rates and health behavior against economic shifts and jobless rates from 1972 to 1991.

Ruhm found that death rates declined sharply in the 1974 and 1982 recessions, and increased in the economic recovery of the 1980s. An increase of one percentage point in state unemployment rates correlated with a 0.5 percentage point decline in the death rate — or about 5 fewer deaths per 100,000 people. Overall, the death rate fell by more than 8 percent in the 20-year period of mostly economic decline, led by drops in heart disease and car crashes.

One in Four Mammals Are Threatened, Study Finds

By **James Kanter**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BARCELONA, SPAIN

An “extinction crisis” is under way, with one in four mammals in danger of disappearing because of habitat loss, hunting and climate change, a leading global conservation body warned Monday.

“Within our lifetime, hundreds of species could be lost as a result of our own actions,” said Julia Marton-Lefevre, the director general of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, or IUCN, an international network of campaign groups, governments, scientists and other experts.

Among 188 mammals in the conservation union’s highest threat category — critically endangered — was the Iberian lynx, which has an estimated population of 84 adults and has continued to decline as its primary prey, the European rabbit, has fallen victim to disease and overhunting.

The report, presented at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, was the conservation union’s most detailed study of mammals in more than a decade. It formed part of a Red List of Threatened Species issued annually by the group.

The fishing cat, found in Southeast Asia, was moved to the second most threatened category, endangered, from vulnerable, because of habitat loss in wetlands. The Caspian seal, also endangered, has declined in population by 90 percent over the past 100 years because of unsustainable hunting and degradation of its habitats.

Jan Schipper, director of the global mammal assessment for the IUCN and for Conservation International, an environmental group, gave a mostly bleak assessment.



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OPINION

The Pot Calling the Kettle Black

Washington's Culpability in the Credit Crunch

Joe Maurer

For most politicians, especially those facing an election in less than a month, looking good to the taxpayer is important. Anyone familiar with the Presidential and Vice Presidential debates knows how elected officials love to boast about fighting corruption, saving taxpayer money, and most recently, directing angry diatribes towards unpopular figures — and unfortunately for the market, Wall Street has never been all that popular with “Joe Six-Pack.”

With the markets more or less in Washington's hands at this point, and with the Treasury's hands deep within the pockets of the taxpayer, it seems appropriate to consider just how daft those hands are. For a little insight to the political mindset, Senator McCain finds blame in “unbridled greed” on Wall Street. Obama, meanwhile — while saying that he's “above partisan politics” — blames the GOP and McCain for the problems. Perhaps these claims are true; however, I'm more inclined to believe that Wall Street did not implode without some outside help.

Fundamentally, the subprime mortgage bust of last year and last month's liquidity crisis do not represent a failing of capitalism. It does not mean that free markets have failed our country, and as such, I am wary of any bailout plan that lays the blame for our current economic troubles solely at the feet of the financial industry.

Some blame greed for our problems. It makes a nice moralistic argument about the corruptions of modern society, but as it relates to Wall Street, it doesn't explain their failings. However, immorality does explain the actions of the group that is most culpable for our current economic crisis: the government.

Over twenty years of bad government led us to where we are now. So, the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) should be seen not as a bailout of fat cat investors, but instead as the time to pay the Pied Piper.

The underlying cause of the credit crisis stems from last year's subprime mortgage fiasco, which itself resulted from the bursting of the housing bubble. These events have the government's fingerprints all over them.

To start with, look at the policies of Washington on housing. Homeownership is the political Holy Grail, and every politician savors the ability to brag to their constituents about voting to help the homeowner. Bonus points if those new homeowners are from minority groups. Consequently, we've seen the powerful influence of groups such as the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now impact the directives and legislation from Capitol Hill.

Chiefly, the government has pushed lenders of all types to make more loans and more credit available to borrowers who would not normally qualify for a loan. When more people had mortgages, there were more prospective homebuyers, which drove up the cost of housing through basic supply and demand. Hence, the government has played a pivotal role in the housing bubble.

Washington's legislation also had a profound impact on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the mortgage giants recently taken over by the Feds. For the purpose of promoting homeownership among the lower and middle classes, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) set targets for the percentage of

loans Fan and Fred had to make to anyone earning less than an arbitrary amount. Strangely, the same groups that hailed this a way to promote equality are the groups that now grouse about the practice of “predatory lending,” or when banks supposedly make loans to people with poor credit at high rates.

The politicians did not stop there, however. During the Clinton administration, the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) was given new teeth to encourage banks to promote the “common good.” Effectively, it did to all of Wall Street what the HUD had done to Fan and Fred. Any bank that didn't jump through hoops to satisfy these demands ran the risk of being sued for redlining or discrimination.

Of course, the idea of a “common good” here ignores the basic capitalist tenant that what is good for the individual benefits society in the long run. The CRA focused on the short-sighted goal of increasing homeownership, which served to fulfill the even shorter term goal of helping politicians win reelection.

As we've seen all too much recently, populism has again returned as a viable political strategy in Washington, with the presidential candidates using the “people vs. Wall Street” rhetoric to great impact. Unfortunately, it's succeeding, because American's are constantly inundated with either what Fox News called the journalist technique of “apocalyptic” headline stories (ironically, they were talking about their own website) or attack ads from candidates who love using the Street as their scapegoat. Who said yellow journalism was dead?

Worse than the government's incompetent handling of housing has been their attempts to fix what they often deem to be the free market's inadequacies — never mind that their meddling caused the problems in the first place.

For example, The Wall Street Journal reports that last month, Senator Harry Reid casually referred to “A major insurance company — one with a name that everyone knows that's on the verge of going bankrupt.” While not naming names, Reid's tremendously irresponsible action encouraged speculation and fear that caused insurance stocks to tank the following day. Similarly, Chuck Schumer suggested earlier this summer that the regional IndyMac Bank “could face collapse.” Predictably, IndyMac collapsed after spooked investors pulled their money out of the bank, a classic run caused by a loss of confidence.

There is a reason the Fed only announces the closure of a bank after they have sufficient evidence to do so. Politicians suggesting that a major financial institution could fail should inspire a similar outrage to Hillary Clinton's comment that she should stay in the primary because Obama could meet a fate similar to that of Robert Kennedy. While technically correct, statements like these do not inspire confidence.

Before condemning everyone from the Beltway as babbling dolts though, it is important to remember that some light occasionally breaks through the black hole of good ideas. The Federal Housing Regulatory Reform Act of 2005 stands as a good example of what is both right and wrong about Washington. The act itself called for what I called for in a previous article: a stronger regulator for Fannie and Freddie. However, it was killed off in a party line vote.

More applicable to today, though, are the names attached to this bill. John McCain co-

sponsored it, and Barack Obama fell in line with his party and voted against change for the better. Certainly, Republicans do not advocate reckless deregulation. Instead, they just realize the difference between more regulation and more effective regulation. Many of the banks who failed this year were among the most heavily regulated institutions in finance, and they were paralyzed by potential losses that result from “mark to market” accounting. Bad regulation can sink companies faster than any greedy CEO.

This brings up the idea of “moral hazard.” Whenever this phrase has been used before now, it has typically referred to the danger of rewarding banks or individuals who made poor decisions. However, the phrase is more appropriately applied to the government's impact on housing. Irresponsibility and opportunism infests our government's actions regarding the economy and housing. Politicians are not economists, and worse than simply ignoring their advice, they often mock it as out of touch or naïve.

This brings us back to today. TARP has become law, and the political class is crowing about how they needed to rescue Wall Street to protect Main Street. And they're right. Without the bailout, the liquidity crisis would have gotten worse before it got better. Credit has dried up, and even sound companies like General Electric are feeling the squeeze. There's no denying that something had to be done, and Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson's plan represented a simple, elegant, but effective solution.

The Relief Program will work, because it will restore investor confidence, and restore banks confidence in each other. Last week, banks went to the Fed, the traditional “lender of last resort,” for a record breaking amount of overnight loans. When banks are afraid of lending to each other, they don't even think about lending to consumers. And without consumer lending, housing prices continue to fall, and the crisis continues until we reach a painful bottom. TARP will help prevent that.

Recovery now depends on the government's ability to keep its hands off of Wall Street and let banks do what they know is best for themselves, because what's good for the banks is good for the economy, and what's good for the economy is good for the American people. From the lowest day laborer to the Fortune 500 CEO, everyone benefits when the economy grows, because unlike income redistribution schemes that simply chop off future growth to make everyone worse off, capitalism brings up the entire boat.

Finally, capitalism is still our best and only option for a viable economy. Anyone who thinks that patently moronic laws like the Community Reinvestment Act represent a free market environment is on the same plane as someone who thinks Barack Obama's economic plan is socialist: flipping the adjectives there produces a statement that's much closer to reality.

This country's economy needs reform, but not the kind currently being proposed by Congress, and not the knee-jerk populist positions of our presidential candidates. We need to acknowledge that not everyone has the capability to be a homeowner, and that income equality is not a measure of how well a country is doing.

We need policies that encourage homeownership among those who can afford it and economic growth plans so that anyone who can't afford a home can work to achieve that goal. As such, we need to embrace lower taxes, a minimal government presence in the private sector, and as voters, responsibility for our elected officials. We need a return to capitalism.

Joe Maurer is a member of the Class of 2012.

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The ‘Me’ Culture at MIT (and Beyond)

Florence Gallez

The “You” of YouTube is beautiful (who is immune to a bit of attention?), and the “We” of wikis and the like are everywhere. But make no mistake, at the end of the day, it’s still the “Me” that matters.

By this, I mean that despite operating in a “global digital village” and hearing on every corner that “community” is cool, it’s still very much a self-centered, ego-conscious “me-first” culture that we live in.

Judging by the scarce conversations on the economic crisis and its implications among MIT staff and students over the past month, with only a few echoes of it reaching campus and classrooms, one would think that all is well — for us at MIT *and* beyond our walls.

It could be argued that the unique, enclosed world of academia and the peace and quiet it engenders, required to produce great research and innovation, is the reason for this problem. But I also see a disconcerting distance and lack of concern among the average person in the “world out there” — that is, most of the people in this so-called connected planet.

As I listened to a girlfriend’s teary account of a failed first date in its most minute details for the third time this week, I could not help but notice that at least *she* doesn’t seem worried by events out there in the bigger world. A general, simplistic conclusion, I admit. But things add up when a graduate student at the Sloan School of Management tells you at a recent house party that students at MIT and other colleges probably don’t think and talk too much about the mortgage, credit and banking crisis because they are not active participants in the market yet, and therefore are not directly affected by these events. Never mind that they will be in a few years’ time ...

Apparently, unless Trouble knocks on your door, it doesn’t exist. And to many on campus, those on whose door it is knocking right now don’t seem to exist either.

On campus, I never feel the disconnection from the souls outside of our cocoon more sharply than when we discuss in our classes and research groups the concepts and values of the latest cool tools or ideas for making our own high-end technologies.

We seem to assume that the 15-year-old disadvantaged teenager has the money to buy and *keep* the latest super-smart cell phone and that the working mother of three has the time to sit and blog all night about her views, likes, and dislikes.

The term “Digital Divide” pops up now and then in these class discussions and other lectures, as if thrown in for good measure, then disappears.

We seem unable (or unwilling?) to imagine socio-economic conditions different from our own, or our own circle. Shall I dare take it further and suggest that we subconsciously proj-

ect our own tastes and status onto the people out there and selfishly assume they will readily embrace them?

Maybe that is what it takes to be the intrepid leaders, pioneers, and innovators that MIT is famous for, and it is dictated by the laws of progress and development ... but such a self-centered, elitist attitude also jars with the current culture of communal love, care and co-operation that the shared digital spaces of our times, such as social networks and blogging initiatives, claim to foster.

For all the “friend” focus and sociality of Facebook, MySpace, and their kin, the somewhat narcissist self-display and self-promotion they offer is now common knowledge. Call it a “me-centered,” personalized relationship with the community, or what Manuel Castells, professor of communication technology and society at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles (and a visiting professor at MIT), calls “networked individualism.”

Perhaps, when navigating the plethora of opportunities for participation and cooperation that the Internet and new media technologies present us with, it is important that we actually take the time to know and care about whom-ever we interact with, so that this participation doesn’t end up being an exercise in self-promotion, or serving pure personal leisure purposes while proclaiming otherwise.

To cite just a few cases at the top of my head: Many Americans’ inability to place the nation of Georgia on a map (following the crisis with Russia) and Europeans’ shock at discovering the social inequalities and poverty in Louisiana (following Katrina) speak volumes about how disconnected and ill-informed we still are as members of what is supposed to a community of engaged, knowledgeable global citizens.

We pepper our speech with words like “culture,” “community,” and “multiculturalism” ... but a quick walk through Central Square is all it takes to see that in reality cultures don’t mix as much as they do in our imagination.

I could cite plenty of cases where concerted online and offline efforts have yielded tremendous good in local, national, and global communities. Grassroots rescue efforts during Katrina and the London public transport bombings come to mind as some of the most obvious examples.

Computer-moderated social organization has produced a form and level of public mobilization and activism unimaginable only a few years ago, sparking

heightened personal responsibility in the civic sphere and new political practices. Barack Obama’s success in mobilizing his country’s youth via the Web and engaging it in participatory democratic discourse is what e-democracy is all about.

Let us hope that such a progressive approach will help cement these young people’s nascent interest and action in political process-

es. I suspect, though, that such engagement is still sadly minimal. Statistics repeatedly show that the public’s engagement with the Web and mobile technologies is still largely for entertainment purposes, *not* to better the world.

Busily Twittering and text messaging our friends are not going to turn us into Mother Therasas. Behind the beeps and rings of our tech tools one can hear the subtle message that using (read: buying) these technologies will make us kinder, more philanthropic, better human beings. The big push for sharing is but one proof of this.

But as we Twitter, chat and share, somebody is getting richer ...

The commercial motives behind the digital activities on offer are evident. The rules of viral marketing seem to be orchestrating the global outpouring of brotherly online love and communal all-sharing compassion more than our hearts do.

The logic behind what MIT’s Comparative Media Studies Director Henry Jenkins calls in his book *Convergence Culture* “affective economics” — the close, cooperative relationship between product/service providers and consumers that extends to include friends and family as part of a branding strategy — is being used by a whole range of market players, from soft drink and video games makers to social networks and TV shows producers.

As *Convergence Culture*’s insightful, eye-opening account of the mechanics behind new media trends shows, some very inventive new media models have emerged as they engage fans and users to contribute to the product/service’s design and development in a wiki-style, open source manner. But it also risks, as it did for me, throwing a bucket of cold water on one’s initial enthusiasm for Facebooking and other forms of online social engagement.

I cannot help but notice that these inventive collective commercial initiatives often intensely focus on individual consumption, such as when friends in a network chat about the latest iPhone apps and gadgets — and thus seem rooted in a material, individualistic culture.

Which brings us back to my initial point that the “Me” still matters and the little self-focused “I” is alive and well.

Perhaps our cut-throat competitive world is partly responsible for all our me-first actions.

But I also think that these “You,” “We,” and “Me” phases come and go in cycles, like trends and fashion styles. Just spread the meme, and watch it grow. Give it another couple of years, and the lone lab rat-researcher may be the coolest person on the planet. *Wired* magazine founding editor Kevin Kelly’s “Quantified Self Wiki” — “a catalog of resources for self-measurements of all types,” may plant the seeds of a self-tracking spree. Its purpose is “to better understand ourselves, in body and mind.”

So perhaps the “Me” matters more than ever — we might as well acknowledge it. And as Kelly suggests, nurture these selves.

After all, empathy and care for the community, offline and online, start at home.

Florence Gallez is a graduate student in the Department of Comparative Media Studies.

Breaking The Academia Bubble

Maggie Liu

Having attended a boarding school for the last four years, I am altogether too familiar with the term “bubble effect.” This metaphoric phrase describes the coddled isolation common amongst the verdant courtyards of academia.

Students become so caught up with school that they become isolated from the “real world.” The primary symptom is severe ignorance of current events, politics, and global affairs. What I find ironic is that in such a technologically advanced world, the “bubble effect” is still a very real epidemic.

It’s mind-numbingly easy to be so caught up in school that one completely loses touch with the world at large. I think this holds true especially at a place like MIT where one’s weekdays usually are not counted by dates but deadlines for p-sets.

There’s also an unconscious aversion to doing things like watching or reading about the news because of its intellectual stimulation. “What? Nonsense!” One may splutter in disbelief. At higher-education institutions, everything and anything can become a source of intellectual discussion. Every college student is interested in discussing the financial crisis over Dunkin’ Donuts.

Right. The college student may lightly note the financial crisis only in the context of how difficult it is to obtain an internship. Then they would probably plow through and discuss the upcoming frat parties on the weekends.

Don’t get me wrong. I’m not condemning the college student for doing what they do. Rushing from lectures to recitations and seminars, it’s a relief at times to get away from the world of academia. Choosing between conversing about the pros and cons of a sustainability bill and sleeping, I’m pretty sure most would pick the latter. I might even be guilty of the same thing depending on what day of the week it is.

The problem is, however, what the college students are *not* doing. If one views keeping up with current events as a chore, it becomes a burden. The truth is that news and a basic knowledge of current affairs shouldn’t fall under the category of academia but instead be considered part of one’s obligations as a good citizen.

Seeing that you live in the country, you should know about the financial situation at hand. Sure, it may not affect you directly at the moment but

With the wide range of media and sources of information, it’s not difficult to tap into tidbits of current events.

does one have to understand and know of something only when it is in the context of the individual? This thought strongly disturbs me.

With the wide range of media and sources of information, it’s not difficult to tap into tidbits of current events. There are even fewer physical and financial limitations than in the past to prevent us from hearing about global happenings. It’s simply a matter of breaking our indifference to reality and the academic bubble. Though one may feel comfortable and satisfied with being shielded from the “real world” when at college, eventually one must come face to face with the outside.

It’s probably not possible to be as attuned to current affairs as those in the work field. Things like tax increases or rising prices of gas are often not tangible worries. We will not feel the same way towards the financial crisis as those who have been laid off from their positions in companies like Lehman Brothers.

We should, however, at least make an effort to *know* of these things. Checking the New York Times online or the BBC’s headlines once or twice daily would take a total of ten to fifteen minutes from your day. That’s about the same amount of time it would take to Facebook stalk that cute boy who always sits two rows ahead of you in 18.02.

When you fall into the pattern of checking the news every day, it no longer becomes a chore but a part of your lifestyle. It keeps one of your feet in the real world and will prevent you from settling into the seductively comfortable — but ultimately debilitating — academia bubble.

Maggie Liu is a member of the Class of 2012.

The term ‘Digital Divide’ pops up now and then in these class discussions and other lectures, as if thrown in for good measure, then disappears.

Physics Appreciates ‘Thoughtful’ Title IX Review

Edmund Bertschinger

In an opinion piece published several weeks ago, Gary Shu speculated on the causes of the gender gap in science and engineering and decried the call for a “Title Nining” of federal science funding.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity. The law authorizes and directs federal agencies to determine whether universities provide equal educational opportunity regardless of gender.

Compliance with Title IX is a necessary but insufficient condition for creating an environment that encourages and supports all talented individuals wishing to pursue a career in science or engineering.

Last year the MIT Physics Department was reviewed for compliance with Title IX by the

NASA Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity. Statistical data were collected along with relevant policies and procedures, and an on-site visit was made to interview physics students and faculty as well as Institute administrators.

The Title IX report concludes: “Based on an evaluation of the data provided by MIT and from on-site interviews and observations, NASA found the MIT Physics Department to be in compliance with the NASA Title IX regulations. NASA notes with approval the extent and variety of promising practices MIT is undertaking in its efforts to increase the participation of women in its Physics Department and to ensure equal educational opportunity regardless of gender.

In particular NASA notes that MIT has very high numbers of women in its undergraduate physics program relative to other universities’ physics programs. Instead of using Title IX as a bureaucratic tool to enforce quotas, NASA performed a thoughtful review and provided useful recommendations to help us meet our goals of

reducing the gender gap in physics.

While gender variation in abilities and opportunities or the balance of careers and family are often considered to be major causes of the disproportionate underrepresentation of women in Physics, several universities, including MIT, are implementing serious measures to mitigate the obstacles facing women who pursue a career in science.

The steps we have taken include affirmative action reviews of faculty and graduate student recruitment, paid maternity leave for graduate students and faculty, access to quality childcare, and automatic one-year delays in the faculty tenure clock for childbirth. Equally important are mentoring and support from faculty supervisors, department leaders, and fellow students.

A career in physics is demanding, exciting and satisfying — regardless of one’s gender, race or sexual orientation.

Edmund Bertschinger is the head of the Department of Physics.

Corrections

In last Friday’s issue, the article “Grad Rat Redesigned for First Time Since 2003” incorrectly described some features of the new graduate student ring. The bezel of the new ring does not contain a slice of pizza or a crane. Those features did exist on the old ring, though are not present in the new design.

Dispatches From Alaska

Watching the VP Debate From Palin's Home State

Gary Shu

I learned that it takes 3000 foot-pounds of energy to stop a brown bear.

This was the reason why the man at the bar, a cargo pilot, carried a .50-caliber rifle whenever he goes out with his two daughters. He also believed that Governor Palin was tough as nails, a force to be reckoned with that could clean up Washington. Our bartender agreed and nearly didn't want to vote for her because then she wouldn't be governor anymore. She had been good to the citizens of the state.

I was in Anchorage, Alaska for a mid-week conference on my research. Even though it meant the inconvenience of missing many of my classes, I took the opportunity to talk to as many people as I could and to glean Alaskan perspectives about the vice presidential debate, the Governor, the president campaigns, and the state of Alaska in general.

I had asked a Department of Urban Studies and Planning classmate from Anchorage for recommendations of a good place to watch the debate. She mentioned that I would likely find "wealthy Republicans" at a hotel a few blocks from where the conference was. So I walked over in the 40-degree weather to the Captain Cook hotel where Sarah Palin gave her victory speech for her gubernatorial campaign two years ago.

Plopping down at the bar in an upscale English pub, I noticed that people were excited. The bartender had been asked all day whether the debate would be on but the atypical crowd had a small and vocal Democratic contingent.

The polls going in were not encouraging for

Sarah Palin — after the Katie Couric interviews, people were likely not to vote for the GOP ticket simply because of her and a majority believed she was too inexperienced for vice president. According to consensus, the debate was to be Palin's last stand, a chance to stage a comeback and redeem herself of her gaffs in the most public of arenas. Expectations were low and people were anticipating a train-wreck performance.

Palin and Senator Biden strolled onto the stage with the Governor looking simultaneously funereal and precious in an all-black power dress suit topped with a bow-tie belt. (And while we're on fashion, what in the world was moderator Gwen Iffil wearing with that sea-green fluffy suit?) Before Palin even made it to her podium, she thanked the audience and the moderator one too many times and looked little like a national politician out to kill.

As the debate started, Palin looked shaky. She spoke confidently and sternly about deregulation and the economy, but not comfortably. However, as the evening wore on, Palin eased into her stride and turned on the high-wattage charm. Her responses were fluid and easy as she proclaimed that she was going to "talk straight to the American people," that

portion of the country that resided on a Main Street consisting of hockey moms and "Joe Six-Pack."

The evening turned out to be a proxy fight for the presidential candidates' stances on the middle class. The old grizzled Senator Joe

Biden was afraid to directly attack the pretty, winning lady across the stage and he laid into John McCain's record as often as he could. Palin deflected easily and worked up her smile when quoting Reagan about the "city on the hill" and "government being the problem." She tried to connect with the audience through her experiences as a busy mom and succeeded.

Palin spent the night straddling the edge between being too folksy and being too cute. During the first half hour, it worked. I couldn't concentrate when Palin barely contained a smirk during Biden's response after he flubbed Obama's name for McCain. Only when the camera finally cut away from both candidates could I stop wondering what was going on in her head.

Afterwards, Palin was sure-footed and in her element when talking about Alaska and energy policy. You could tell by the casual head-toss and near-wink she gave to the camera, letting the nation know that "I've got this."

It was only after her second actual wink and remarking about "Wasilla, Main Street" did the audience in the bar let off a groan. (The line also prompted someone to call out "Bingo" as they won the drinking game "Palin Bingo.") Palin may have slightly overplayed her informality and congeniality but she flubbed less often than Biden and exceeded the low expectations of her.

Biden ended up looking old and establishment on stage. Credit Palin for forcing Biden to defend everything from his time in Washington

to his record on Israel, and even his perspective as a man.

Afterwards, I asked those around me of their opinion on the debate and on Palin. Most people thought she did satisfactorily but not extraordinarily. One man, a shipping executive from the southeastern coast, explained to me that he did not take a liking to her until two months ago. He believed that she had managed the finances of the state quite well but it wasn't until she reached the national spotlight that he started rooting for her.

In Alaska, you see, Palin is considered too sophisticated by half, a city girl in a frontier state. By being tapped for vice president, though, Palin was now thought of by the nation as the rural huntin' woman who shoots wolves and fished for salmon. Most of the people I talked to conceded that she was probably in over her head. But to them, it was good that she was there.

The country already viewed Alaskans as destroying their state with oil pipelines and overfishing. In their opinion, calling a public works project "The Bridge to Nowhere" was an insult to a state whose capitol was land-locked and required a flight or a boat ride to get to. As the shipping guy said, "There's a huge divide between rural America and urban America." And Alaska was as rural as it got.

It's no wonder then that Sarah Palin smiled her way through the debate. She succeeded in connecting with that portion of rural Americans that MIT students just don't see in Cambridge or Boston. And by that measure, Palin had won over the crowd with her charm.

Gary Shu is a graduate student in the Engineering Systems Division.

The evening turned out to be a proxy fight for the presidential candidates' stances on the middle class.

The Great Debate

Sarah Palin: An Exercise in Mediocrity

Dan Yelin

News coverage leading up to Thursday's Vice Presidential debate had us all believing Alaska Governor Sarah Palin lacked the skills and knowledge necessary to run for national office.

She proved us right. Palin did an impressive job at not doing much of anything, except being able to repeat talking points. The bar for Sarah Palin was set lower than for any other Vice Presidential candidate, and she barely stumbled over it.

The debate was wide ranging, and focused on domestic and foreign policy issues, putting Governor Palin in a situation she has been all too familiar with over the past few weeks: having to answer a question without knowing the issue. When speaking, Palin sounded desperate as she tried to fill her allotted response time, often reverting back to her connections with Main Street and referring to herself and John McCain as mavericks.

For instance, when the topic of the debate switched to education, Palin retreated into overtly cutesy defense mode, winking repeatedly and using her Fargo, N.D. accent to distract people from the fact that she didn't really answer the question. Let's look at one of her responses as evidence.

[The following was *actually said* in the Vice Presidential debate.]

Moderator: "Governor?"

Palin: "Say it ain't so, Joe, there you go again pointing backwards again. You preferred [sic] your whole comment with the Bush administration. Now doggone it, let's look ahead and tell Americans what we have to plan to do for them in the future."

"You mentioned education and I'm glad you did. I know education you are passionate about with your wife being a teacher for 30 years, and God bless her. Her reward is in heaven, right?"

"I say, too, with education, America needs to be putting a lot more focus on that and our schools have got to be really ramped up in terms of the funding that they are deserving. Teachers needed to be paid more."

"I come from a house full of school teachers. My grandma was, my dad who is in the audience today, he's a schoolteacher, had been for many years. My brother, who I think is the best schoolteacher in the year, and here's a shout-out to all those third graders at Gladys Wood Elementary School, you get extra credit for watching the debate."

"Education credit in American has been in some sense in some of our states just accepted to be a little bit lax and we have got to increase the standards."

"No Child Left Behind was implemented. It's not doing the job though. We need flexibility in No Child Left Behind. We need to put more of an emphasis on the profession of

teaching. We need to make sure that education in either one of our agendas, I think, absolute top of the line."

"My kids as public school participants right now, it's near and dear to my heart. I'm very, very concerned about where we're going with education and we have got to ramp it up and put more attention in that arena."

Moderator: "Everybody gets extra credit tonight. ..."

So, what exactly did she say? First, she smarmily told Senator Biden to "say it ain't so" because he kept using McCain's track record in the Senate against her. Second, she gave a compliment (?) to Joe Biden's wife. Third, she said that teachers need to be paid more without saying how. Fourth, she made a shout out and gave extra credit to third graders at Gladys Wood Elementary School.

I'm sure they're happy.

Lastly, she gave an uninformed opinion about No Child Left Behind, making vague references to the need to improve our teaching resources and educational standards without providing any specifics. She deftly managed to dodge her way through questions, smiling and winking her way through the debate as she attempted to prove that she was just like an average American.

Truth be told, I don't want an average American to be one heartbeat away from the Presidency of the United States. I want a competent leader with depth and breadth of knowledge on the issues. Joe Biden put on a cool, commanding performance, giving reasonable and informative answers to the questions he was asked. Biden gets it.

He understands the role that government

plays in America. A main issue with No Child Left Behind is that it's an unfunded government mandate, requiring states to comply with federal standards without the funding promised to implement changes necessary to bring them into compliance with the law. As a governor, Sarah Palin should be aware of this, but she wasn't.

Two years ago, Sarah Palin was a mayor of a city of less than 10,000 people — a population smaller than the number of students enrolled at MIT. She's had less than two years on the job as Governor, with a record devoid of any notable accomplishments.

Joe Biden has been a U.S. Senator for 35 years, and was instrumental in securing the passage of important policy reforms, including anti-crime legislation in 1994, which put 100,000 more police officers on the streets and instituted a comprehensive nation-wide assault weapons ban. His experience showed as he stayed on track, displayed readiness to engage in tough debate, and laid out actual policy proposals.

Elections are about the issues and who is fit to govern. Looking at Joe Biden, I see a confident statesman ready to assume the helm should anything happen to Barack Obama. Sarah Palin, while expressing rudimentary knowledge on some issues, couldn't seem to get past talking points and sound bites last Thursday night. While Palin was able to avert a total meltdown during the debate by staying coherent, it's clear that Biden was the general in command, using rhetoric, knowledge, and experience to rack up another win for Obama.

Dan Yelin is a junior in the Department of Political Science.

Palin did an impressive job at not doing much of anything, except being able to repeat talking points.



"Behold, Mr. Reagan, the fruits of deregulation!"



CAMPUS LIFE

Talk Nerdy To Me

A Pubic Debate

By Christine Yu
STAFF COLUMNIST

My friend lives in one of those dorms with an oversensitive fire alarm. If you fully shut the door while taking a steamy shower, you'll force the whole building to evacuate.

Well, mysteriously, the fire alarm went off at two in the morning one night. It could've been investigated like a crime.

The crime scene: a steamy dorm room shower.

The evidence: pubes in the trash.

The culprit: my trimmed friend.

See, he shut the door and turned on the shower to avoid being walked in on. However, he met the rude interruption of the fire alarm and nicked himself in the process. Fortunately, for him, there were no crime scene investigators.

Besides a discrepancy in gender views on oral sex, there's also a vast discrepancy for pubic hair. Guys expect girls to be as hairless

as our pre-pubescent days, while letting themselves suffer from "ZOMG!" bush.

Then, if they do trim, they fully expect a favor for it.

For my latest fuck buddy disaster, he complained I didn't give him head. First of all, let me say, as usual, there was no cunninglingus. I had spent the whole morning shopping in Newbury in uncomfortable flats, and I was exhausted. So, I collapsed on his bed, and somehow, in the course of the night, it turned into sex — well, actually, I'm not sure I can really call it that. (It was that bad.)

However, according to him, since he trimmed, I broke some sort of code. Supposedly, there's some sort of law that states that if a

person modifies their pubes, then there should be oral. Well, I shaved, and there was no oral.

Actually, I didn't even know he trimmed. See, I have never encountered "ZOMG" bush — I've only heard legends of it. Before him, I've slept primarily with Asian guys who naturally met the stereotype of hairlessness (and another stereotype, but let's not go there today). Actually, one "ex" complained during finals week when I forgot to shave that my legs were hairier than his. I am still mortified by this statement.

So, let me go to the central debate: what are people supposed to do with pubes? To answer this, I tried to find the scientific reasoning for these hairs. It seems there are two beliefs: 1.

Increasing surface area for pheromones 2. A physical change to show sexual maturity. If it truly helps with pheromones, then it might be worth it to keep the hair. However, I'm not sure how much I buy into that — I mean, some "sex-perts" claim that body odor helps with pheromones, and well, after being at MIT, I don't believe this! I know of so many guys (*ahem* all in a certain major) who don't shower that I don't want to sleep with.

In the end, I think that the pubes debate becomes one of hygiene. So long as your bush doesn't have stuff trapped in it, then it's fine. See, people have such varying beliefs of it: some like it all gone, some like decorative patterns, and some like a forest. In the end, it should be somewhat equal. If a guy expects a girl to trim or shave, he should do something about his also.

Pubes are ultimately a hairy debate — and something that partners should talk about beforehand.

Brouhaha Rhythm

It Goes Up to Nine-Thousand ... and Eleven

By Michael Lin
STAFF COLUMNIST

Idiosyncrasies in musical taste range across an enormous spectrum, with ye-olde-school classical on one end and throat-thrashing screams on the other. With a wide array of genres to choose from, you'd probably be hard-pressed to find anyone who doesn't like music at all. Some people enjoy country, either because they really like hearing songs about women wreaking felonious vengeance on their lecherous significant others (with the collateral damage being a poor, innocent 4x4), or because they're just in an achy-breaky mood in general. Others like music they can swing glowsticks to or hop on arrows to, which is great for their cardiovascular health (in spite of the risk of broken light fixtures or ankles).

As you might expect, I have my own musical preferences, which tend to skip merrily across the spectrum landing where they may. I don't really listen to classical, as it makes me drowsy, but I will gladly tell you that Franz Liszt is my favorite composer. Everyone's always "Chopin this" and "Rachmaninoff that," but I have to tell you, they doesn't appeal to me nearly as much.

I like certain songs that fall under video game music, although this does not extend to the entirety of the Brawl soundtrack, because the songs from Tetris get old fast. I used to lis-

ten almost entirely to music made before 1980, in no small part influenced by rummaging through my parents' CD collection because I wanted to spend my money on Pokémon cards instead of CDs. As time went on, my preferences shifted slightly to include early Michael Jackson and some of the best 80s soundtracks of all time. No points for guessing which Kenny Loggins song I like best, although it's probably not the first one you think of.

Then I played the first Guitar Hero. The first thing I did was listen to "Sharp-Dressed Man" and "I Love Rock and Roll" repeatedly online, and the second thing I did was to wonder why on earth nobody ever told me about the awesomeness of the guitar solo. I mean, I'd already graduated from the Oldies School of Air Guitar, but I had no inkling whatsoever that the Master's program even existed. I fixed that problem fairly quickly with an interest in Poison and Bon Jovi on top of Orleans and The Eagles. Oh, and obviously, all of the Weird Al Yankovic parodies thereof.

In a phenomenon that I seriously doubt is

limited to me, almost every major rock-based rhythm game of the past several years has influenced the collection on my mp3 player in some way or another, simply because I have a weak spot for electric guitar. Mind you, I still have some tastes in music that I consider strange but probably aren't — ask the average person on the street, and chances are high that they'll tell you that their taste is "eclectic," meaning that it dabbles in just about everything.

It's been my experience that people generally don't like to pigeonhole themselves nearly as much as they do others, and if you're in a college environment where horizons get the living day-lights broadened out of them, you've probably sampled new flavors of music whether you wanted to or not. Thankfully enough, the music-blaring residents of Bexley tend to exhibit astonishingly good taste, as least the times I've walked past the Mass. Ave. intersection.

With so many mixed musical tastes brought into close proximity, it's something of a "Duh" moment to deduce that there will be some

mingling amongst them. Some of the music I brought with me include songs from what is in my opinion the greatest foreign sports film known to man, which doesn't even require that deep a knowledge of cricket to understand. In my time at MIT, I also discovered an acoustic guitar duo with some of the most wicked guitar solos I've ever seen in my life, and certainly the only ones I've ever seen live. Feel free to ask me about either of the above — there's little I like better than inflicting my opinion on others.

As far as music is concerned, I'm more than happy to listen to what I have, occasionally hunting down any interesting songs I hear at dances or on television. Putting together a music collection this way tends to make for a pretty piecemeal library, but then, I've always been the kind to listen to music based on the merit of the song rather than the artist. I love the guitar solo in "Free Bird," but having been raised in Pennsylvania, I don't think I identify strongly enough as a Southerner to buy a Lynyrd Skynyrd album.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to go see if I can hunt down the soundtrack to the motion picture *Hook* — because nothing reduces stress like pretending you can fly, and watching Niko Bellic sail off a motorcycle at high speeds in Grand Theft Auto IV just isn't the same.



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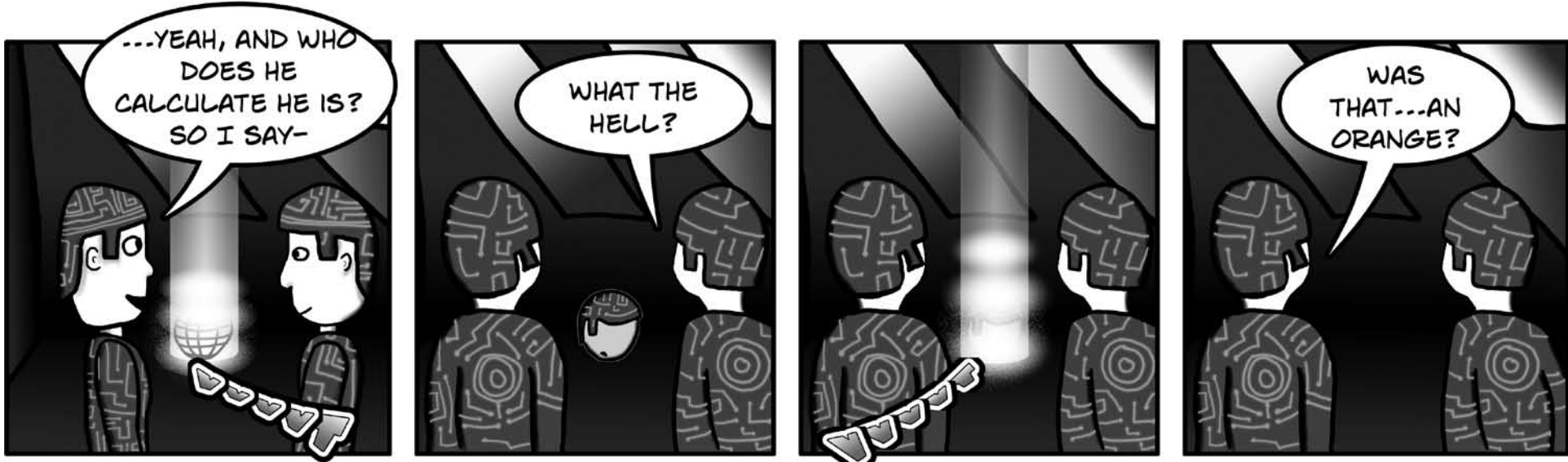


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Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo

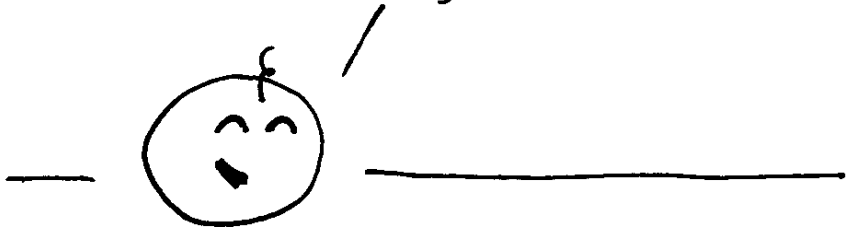


Blobbles

by Jason Chan

Wanna be cool?

Send me a caption!
blobbles@tech.mit.edu
and I'll draw a comic
to go along with it!



su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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Instructions:
Fill in the grid
so that each
column, row,
and 3 by 3 grid
contains exactly
one of each
of the digits 1
through 9.
Solution on
page 14.

Solution, tips,
and computer
program at
<http://www.sudoku.com>

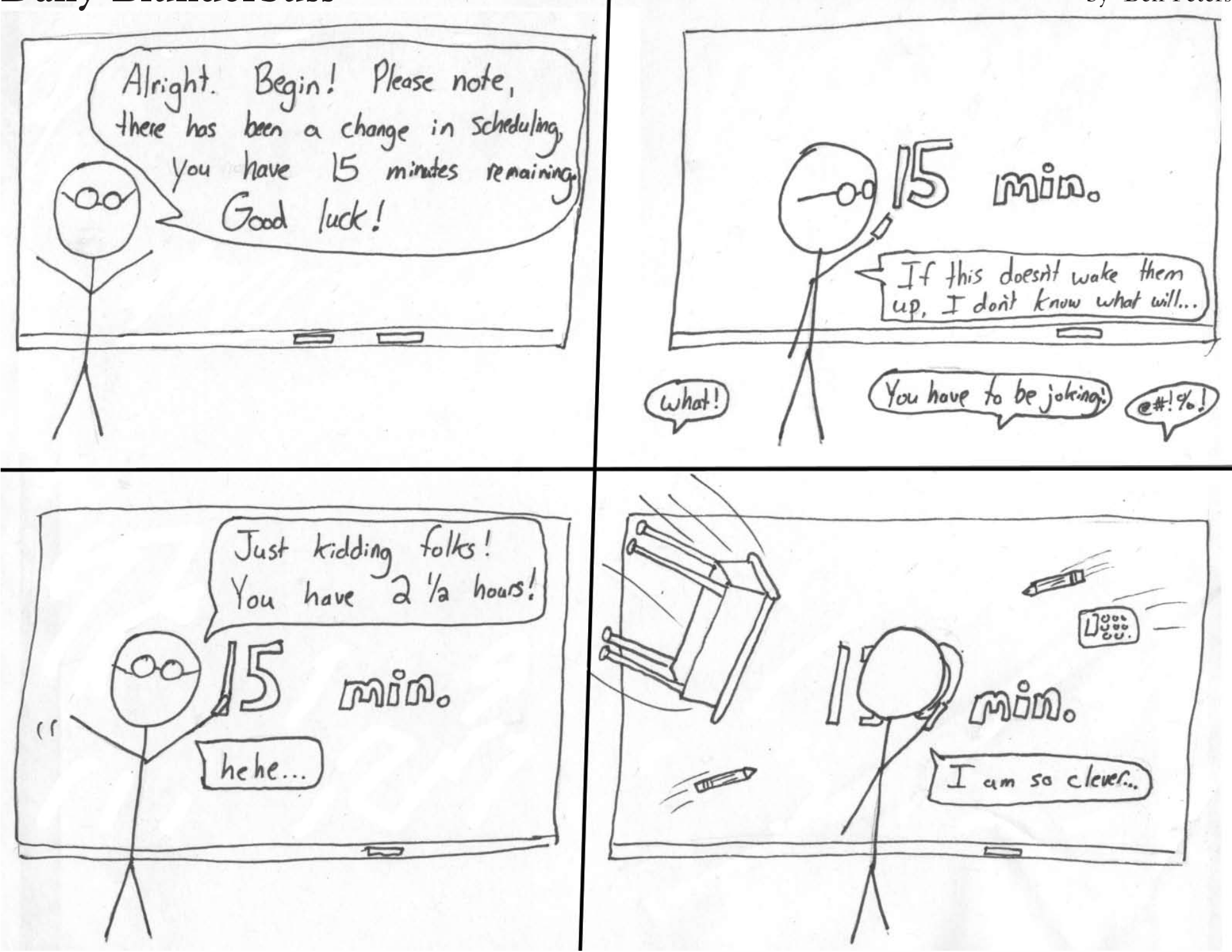
Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters



Theory of Pete

by Cai GoGwilt



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 14

ACROSS

- 1 Alone
- 5 Acronym before the World Series
- 9 African fever
- 14 Unhinged
- 15 Honolulu's island
- 16 Heavenly hunter
- 17 Wernher von Braun?
- 19 Brit's wireless
- 20 Quick/flash connection
- 21 Cageless canary?
- 23 UHF word
- 26 Have in mind
- 27 Born in France
- 28 When scones are served
- 30 Sacred river of India
- 33 Part of E.U.
- 34 San __, CA
- 37 Pilot's request?

DOWN

- 1 Camera letters
- 42 Ripken's team
- 43 UFO pilots
- 45 Geisha garb
- 48 Card poets
- 51 Lennon's beloved
- 52 Give guff to
- 55 Diner
- 56 Elevens, not ones, in blackjack?
- 59 Letters for 1051
- 60 Smooth cotton thread
- 61 British flyer?
- 66 God of Assyria
- 67 Host before Carson
- 68 Son of Seth
- 69 Chicago tower
- 70 Work units
- 71 Blow-gun ammo

- 2 Also
- 3 Coll. sports grp.
- 4 Mini-racer
- 5 __ bene
- 6 Hasty retreat
- 7 Cause friction
- 8 Composer of "The Nubians of Plutonia"
- 9 Traditional stories
- 10 Part of U.A.E.
- 11 Short section of track
- 12 Evening party
- 13 Battery terminals
- 18 Actor Morales
- 22 Pool spin
- 23 Shoshone
- 24 Weakly colored: pref.
- 25 Poi base
- 26 __ Park, NJ
- 29 Group in "The

- Godfather"
- 31 Check fig.
- 32 Japanese drama
- 35 Part of a wd.
- 36 Water pitchers
- 38 Bossy's bellow
- 39 Coastal eagle
- 40 Track gathering
- 41 To be, in Tours
- 44 Old pol. unit
- 45 Furry marsupials
- 46 Carve
- 47 Brandy's sitcom
- 49 Puppy bark
- 50 Posted
- 53 Hanging open
- 54 Cut sheep
- 57 Elide
- 58 That woman's
- 59 City near Essen
- 62 Gossip sheet
- 63 Santa __ winds
- 64 And also not
- 65 Superlative suffix

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Sigma Kappa's Late Night Draws Crowd to Kresge

The Sigma Kappa sorority presented their "I Love the 90s" themed Late Night event on Saturday evening in the Kresge theater. Proceeds from the event went towards Alzheimer's Disease research.

(clockwise from top-left)

Zeta Psi brothers Manuel Cabral '12 (top) and Conor R. O'Rourke '11 perform a flip.

Xudan Liu '10 and Ainsley K. Braun '10, both of Pi Beta Phi, performed as the


dolls Ken and Barbie.

(From left) David A. Croom '09, Kamo Jurn '10, Jason A. Scott '10, Ayaboe K. Edoh '10, and Tarikh C. Campbell '09 perform as the dance crew Back Bay Boys.

Daniel Chen '11 and Tiffany W. Guo '09 perform as Aladdin and Jasmine in the IFC/Panhel act. This act won the crowd favorite award after a vote by the audience at the end of the show.

Photography by William Yee






RACHEL FONG—THE TECH

Comedian Russell Peters gestures during his headlining act of MIT's Fall Festival on Friday evening in the Kresge Auditorium. Peters' show, which is known for his jokes about racial stereotypes, was very popular, selling out quickly and attracting an audience from both MIT and the outside community.

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and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice
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SCREENVISION

Biogen Idec Leaving Cambridge; Suburbs Feature Lower Costs

By Todd Wallack
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Biogen Idec Inc., one of Massachusetts' largest biotechnology companies, is considering moving its corporate headquarters from Cambridge to Weston, which would add it to a growing list of Cambridge biotechs that have jumped to the suburbs because of lower rents and more options for office space.

"It's sort of the natural evolution of these things," said Biogen Idec chief executive Jim Mullen. "The cost of running a business in Cambridge is pretty high."

Mullen said it makes sense to move corporate jobs to the suburbs, where rents are half as much as in Cambridge and workers would have an easier commute from Worcester, southern New Hampshire, and other areas where housing costs are lower.

"It's an employee attraction," he said. "If you want to live in the city, you still can."

But Mullen added that it is vital to keep Biogen Idec's research operations in Kendall Square, near the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to make it easier to retain and recruit scientists. It also plans to keep a small drug manufacturing plant in Cambridge.

In the past a year, more than a half dozen Cambridge biotechs have moved to the suburbs. Amag Pharmaceuticals Inc. moved to Lexington last month. Altus Pharmaceuticals Inc. plans to move to Waltham later this month. And earlier this year, Shire Human Genetic Therapies said it will build a headquarters and manufacturing plant in Lexington.

Mullen said Biogen Idec is in "reasonably well advanced" negotiations to lease a 350,000-square-foot building scheduled to be built on Boston Post Road, just west of the routes 128 and 20 interchange in Weston. The company is also con-

sidering other options, such as expanding in Cambridge or moving to an alternate site in Waltham. But for now, Mullen said, "The Weston site looks like it is the best fit for what we are doing." The company plans to make a final decision by the end of the year.

Biogen Idec has 1,600 employees in Cambridge and another 200 in Wellesley. If the company goes forward with the Weston site, Mullen said, it would likely shift a few hundred corporate jobs from Cambridge and Wellesley to the new offices. The new site would also provide space for new employees.

But the move probably wouldn't take place for about two years. "There's nothing there," Mullen said of the Weston location. Boston Properties Inc., which owns the site, declined to comment. But Susan Haber, Weston's town planner, said the company has secured the necessary permits to build.

Another prominent Cambridge biotech, Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc., has been considering moving its corporate headquarters to a new building in Boston's growing Fan Pier neighborhood as the company outgrows its campus in Cambridgeport. Joshua Boger, Vertex chief executive, said the company plans to make a decision about where to expand by year's end.

While Cambridge and Boston remain desirable for companies, companies often have more options if they are willing to move farther out. Commercial real estate firm Colliers, Meredith & Grew estimated that as of the third quarter, there was a 17.8 percent vacancy rate in the suburbs, compared to 12.2 percent for Cambridge and 9.3 percent in Boston. Rents averaged around \$24 per square foot for most office space in the suburbs, compared with \$43 in Cambridge and \$51 in Boston.

Clay's E-Mail Includes Strengthened Warning Against Hazing, Hacks

Clay, from Page 1

sage involving illegal downloading of music and movies is forthcoming.

Clay said the e-mail does not mark any changes in MIT policy, which is outlined in the *Mind and Hand* guidebook. But with the arrival of over 2,000 new students on campus, "the message has to be reinforced" continually, Clay said.

This e-mail is simply "[an] attempt to balance our traditions with excess," Clay said.

In comparison to last year's letter, this year's letter sharpens some points and softens others. The first letter mentioned that hacks should not bring public notoriety to hackers or MIT. The second letter removes all mention of "notoriety" and in-

cludes language about preserving the "privacy and personal dignity of individuals."

Whereas the previous letter said that showering "looks like" a form of hazing, the new letter says showering "constitutes" hazing. The new letter also adds language explicitly mentioning MIT's "responsibility to limit access to certain campus locations."

Undergraduate Association President Noah S. Jessop '09 said the new letter was relevant, if repetitive.

"All the points were important to reiterate particularly to new members of the community, but much of the message was unfortunately obfuscated by students' fixation on the minute differences from last year's letter," Jessop said.

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BY THE STUDENT INFORMATION PROCESSING BOARD

Want to use the software on Athena? Wondered what sorts of cool things you can do? In this column, we discuss some of the useful software you can find in Athena lockers.

Did the combination to the Athena clusters change?

Yes; the combo to the Athena clusters changes every October. To find the new combo, you can login to a quickstation or a dialup and type

athena% tellme combo

Other things tellme supports are tellme root, for the root password, and tellme why.

What are lockers?

Lockers organize files and software on Athena, and allow them to be accessed more easily. They eliminate the need to use long pathnames like /afs/sipb.mit.edu/contrib/sipb, and allow you to quickly run programs without needing to know exactly where they are located.

How do I use a locker?

The most common way to use a locker is through the add command. This will attach the locker — make it available through /mit/lockername — and add the locker to your path. For example, to run the mplayer program in the outland locker, type:

athena% add outland
athena% mplayer

You can put a line in a text file called .environment in your home directory to add lockers automatically when you log in. Programs such as pico (terminal-based) and gedit (GUI) allow you to edit text files. For example, you may add a line such as:

add 6.001 sipb outland matlab

The second way to use a locker is the attach command. This will make a locker accessible at /mit/lockername the same way add does, but will not add the locker to your path.

SIPB's Debathena (<http://debathena.mit.edu/>) eliminates the need for attach -- whenever you try to access (cd, ls, etc.) a locker through /mit/lockername, it is automatically mounted there. Debathena is the basis for the upcoming Athena 10 release, and you can install it on your own Debian GNU/Linux or Ubuntu machine.

What are some common useful lockers?

Locker	Contents
sipb	software supported by SIPB
outland	software less supported and maintained by SIPB
consult	Athena-related utilities maintained by OLC

Locker	Contents
gnu	common Unix utilities maintained by the Free Software Foundation
abiword	a fast-loading word processor
gnumeric	a fast-loading spreadsheet
ooffice	OpenOffice.org, an office suite
games	games and other fun utilities
im	IM programs, such as gaim
weather	the weather program
math, matlab, maple	Mathematica, Matlab, and Maple software, respectively

Is there an easy way to find out where something is located?

The whichlocker program, located in the outland locker, tells you where many programs are located, and what platforms they are available for.

athena% add outland
athena% whichlocker mmlanche

Locker software on Athena is maintained → by many different people. Don't run this unless you know the → maintainer can be trusted. "mmlanche" is in "consult" for linux, → NT, and sun4

What cool stuff can I find in lockers?

For more information about most of these programs, you can type man programname after adding the appropriate locker.

¶ whats (sipb locker) — expands acronyms
athena% whats sb
SB - Science Baccalaureate (latin → form of "Bachelors of Science")

¶ rolodex (sipb locker) — phone number database
athena% rolodex olc
3-4435 Athena Consulting Office
→ (N42) (OLC)
athena% rolodex 3-7788
3-7788 Student Information
→ Processing Board (SIPB) Office
athena% rolodex pizza
617-577-0066 Domino's Pizza
617-523-5575 Bel Canto (Boston)
[...]

¶ dict (outland locker) — dictionary via dict.org
athena% dict frosh
1 definition found

From The Collaborative International

→ Dictionary of English v.0.48 [gcide]:

frosh \frosh\, n.; pl. {frosh}. [from → freshman by shortening.]
a student during his first year in a → high school, college, or university; a {freshman}.
→ [informal]
[PJC]
A similar program is thesaurus in the sipb locker.

¶ weather (weather locker) — weather conditions or forecast
athena% weather boston
Conditions at KBOS on 10/5/2008 at 2:54 PM EDT (18:54 UTC)
Weather: Cloudy
Temp: 55 F (13 C)
Humidity: 63%
→ Dewpoint: 43 F (6 C)
Visibility: 10 mi
Barometer: 30.25 inHg
Wind: S 5 mph

athena% weather -f bos
[...]
Wednesday and Wednesday night: Mostly → clear. Highs in the upper 60's. Lows in the upper 40's.
Thursday: Mostly sunny. Highs around → 70.
Thursday night: Cloudy. A chance of → showers after midnight.
Patchy fog after midnight. Lows in the → lower 50's. Chance of rain 30 percent.
[...]

¶ pdftops (outland locker) — converts PDF files to postscript (for printing)
athena% pdftops filename.pdf
athena% lpr -h -Zduplex -Pprintername → filename.ps

¶ barnowl (barnowl locker) — Zephyr and IM client
athena% barnowl
[launches barnowl]

To ask us a question, send email to sipb@mit.edu. We'll try to answer you quickly, and we can address your question in our next column. You can also stop by our office in W20-557 or call us at x3-7788 if you need help. Copies of each column and pointers to additional information are posted on our website: <http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/>

Reid Served as Dean, Advisor to Minority Student Organization

Reid, from Page 1

playing a role in interaction in the classroom,” he said. “It can have the power from influencing how professors structure class and who they hire as TAs (teaching assistants) to what examples they give in class. Like President [Susan] Hockfield has said, professors need to internalize and institutionalize the belief that diversity makes everyone better,” said Reid.

During his tenure at MIT, Reid also served as Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education, Assistant to the Chancellor for Diversity, and advisor to the MIT chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers, and to the Chocolate City Living Group. Reid also led the freshman advising seminar, “Race, Identity, and Achievement.”

“In every aspect, he will be missed. Karl ... ingrained his name into the success of many of the minority student groups on campus. — Jarrell Johnson '09

dedication to positively establishing a connection with faculty and staff for incoming freshmen through the Interphase Program and allowing student groups to have a strong voice in the inner workings of the Office of Minority Education are two of the primary aspects of the Dean role that I would like to continue to see,” said Johnson. “I hope the new Dean will be able to continue to lead that positive projection of the OME programming,” he added.

Julie B. Norman, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming, will serve as the interim director of the OME during the search for Reid's replacement.

the Dean for Undergraduate Education, says that MIT plans to launch a national search for a new Director of the OME. The search committee, led by Professor Robert P. Redwine of the Department of Physics, includes faculty and staff members, as well as student and alumni representatives, who will be aided by consultants from headhunting firm Isaacson, Miller.

Johnson, one of the student representatives on the search committee, hopes that Reid's improvements and community impact will be maintained. “The



Members of the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega paint a bench on the bank of the Charles River as part of the Smoot 50th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday afternoon.

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Investment in Energy Research Should Bring More Jobs to U.S.

Energy Debate, from Page 1

Although McCain strongly supports local decision making in regards to energy policy manifestation, Woolsey noted that McCain is opposing his own platform with his detailed proposal for the federal government to manage the construction of forty-five nuclear power plants.

While both representatives agreed that the country's dependence on foreign oil poses security risks, Grumet said that the industry must be urged to switch to breakthrough fuels by forcing fuel economy standards to increase by about one mile per gallon a year.

Woolsey agreed that oil alterna-

tives such as biofuels are the future, but argued that oil will still be relevant in the near future — along with all the political and economic issues attached. He promoted McCain's domestic offshore drilling policy, which he said would help take money out of the pockets of oil dictators.

Grumet said Obama has other plans for reducing energy dependence, including the production of 60 million gallons of advanced bio-fuels and commitments to increasing efficiency, such as maintaining optimum tire pressures.

Other topics that dominated the debate included the various technologies that could be transitioned into. The electricity grid came up as an area requiring immediate improvement. "We have a dumb grid. We have a grid that does not tap the power of the sunny and windy cities of the country," said Grumet. Instead of a power grid that uses new electricity technologies, the current system has numerous security vulnerabilities and lacks in protection against isolated incidents of power outages that can disable the grid over large areas, such as the August 14th, 2003 East Coast blackout.

"We have to make the grid far more resilient. We have a lot to do and the grid is a key part of that," said Woolsey. Grumet mentioned that Obama would invest in the Smart Grid, a novel system that significantly improves the security against terrorist attacks and would facilitate the solar and wind-based production of electricity.

While the presidential candi-

dates support the implementation of a national cap and trade program that limits pollution by forcing companies to pay for exceeding the cap and rewarding companies that stay under, Grumet also said, "We have to pull technologies forward with neutral performance standards and support regulations with significant incentives" that will encourage new energy industries to flourish.

According to Grumet, Obama believes that new technology will never triumph unless all subsidies are retracted and the resources are diverted toward backing new technology. Following a less drastic approach, Woolsey said, "McCain supports reducing subsidies for fossil-fuel based technology."

The economic crisis became intertwined with the energy debate as well. Grumet believes that new energy technologies will "form the backbone for economic recovery." Obama's \$15 billion investment will provide more jobs and serve as a stimulus for an economic comeback. Woolsey explained that "Drill, Baby Drill" endeavor will reduce the country's financial dependence and has the potential to increase jobs.

Although cries for reducing energy dependence have been echoed over the years, the country's dependence on oil hasn't changed.

"Despite promises of energy independence, we become more dependent. A successful president will bend those curves, and at the end of the Obama presidency we will be using less oil than before and be creating less carbon than before," said Grumet.

MITIMCo's President Came From Yale's Own Investment Company

Endowment, from Page 1

that serves to oversee and manage the Institute's investment of its endowment, the sixth largest university endowment in the nation, after Harvard, Yale, Stanford, and Princeton Universities and the University

of Texas system. Over the past ten years, MITIMCo has averaged an annual return of 13.2 percent on the endowment.

MITIMCo also manages MIT's retirement plans and operating funds. MITIMCo had a total of \$14 billion under its management at the end of the 2008 fiscal year. The current president of MITIMCo, Seth Alexander, was formerly a director at the Yale Investment Office.

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Solution to Crossword


from page 9

S	T	A	G	N	L	C	S	L	A	S	S	A
L	O	C	O	O	A	H	U	O	R	I	O	N
R	O	C	K	E	T	M	A	N	R	A	D	I
		A	S	A		F	R	E	E	B	I	R
U	L	T	R	A		M	E	A	N		N	E
T	E	A	T	I	M	E		G	A	N	G	E
E	U	R			A	N	S	E	L	M	O	
		C	O	M	E	F	L	Y	W	I	T	H
			O	R	I	O	L	E	S		E	T
K	I	M	O	N	O		R	H	Y	M	E	R
O	N	O		S	A	S	S	E	A	T	E	R
A	C	E	S	H	I	G	H		M	L	I	
L	I	S	L	E		A	E	R	O	P	L	A
A	S	H	U	R		P	A	A	R	E	N	O
S	E	A	R	S		E	R	G	S		D	A

Solution to Sudoku

from page 8

3	7	8	6	1	9	4	2	5
9	2	6	4	8	5	3	7	1
5	4	1	2	3	7	9	8	6
4	8	2	9	6	3	1	5	7
7	3	9	1	5	8	6	4	2
6	1	5	7	2	4	8	9	3
1	6	7	8	9	2	5	3	4
2	9	3	5	4	1	7	6	8
8	5	4	3	7	6	2	1	9



Alexandria C. Hall '12 smacks a backhand return in the women's tennis team's win over Clark University on Saturday afternoon at the duPont Tennis Courts. For more details about the match, see article on page 16.

SCOREBOARD

Men's Cross Country

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008

NCAA Division III Pre-Nationals

MIT6th of 20

Women's Cross Country

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008

NCAA Division III Pre-Nationals

MIT1st of 16

Field Hockey

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008

MIT (5-7)1

Springfield College (6-3)3

Football

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008

MIT (3-2)20

UMass Dartmouth (3-2)51

Men's Golf

Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 4-5, 2008

ECAC Division III New England Championships

MIT16th of 17

Sailing

Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 4-5, 2008

Danmark Trophy

MIT7th of 20

Women's Regis Bowl

MIT13th of 16

Smith Trophy

MIT14th of 27

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2008

Harvard Invitational

MIT13th of 18

Men's Soccer

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008

MIT (10-0-1)1

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (5-4-1)0

Women's Soccer

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008

Springfield College (6-2-2)1

MIT (3-6-0)0

Men's Tennis

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008

Salve Regina University (0-1)4

MIT (2-0)5

Women's Tennis

Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008

MIT (4-1)2

Tufts University (1-0)7

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008

Clark University (2-6)0

MIT (5-1)9

Women's Volleyball

Friday, Oct. 3, 2008

Polytechnic University (8-7)0

MIT (11-5)3

Colby-Sawyer College (12-7)3

MIT (11-6)0

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008

Elmhurst College (10-8)3

MIT (11-7)2

MIT (11-8)2

Tufts University (16-1)3

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Sports Shorts, Continued

Sports Shorts from Page 16

while Wee defeated Boreen, 6-3, 6-2. Nichols notched a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Normington in the No. 4 slot while Masso outlasted Ryan W. Castonia '09, 3-6, 6-2, 10-6. Harmtaz closed out the day for MIT with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Cunningham in the No. 6 spot.

MIT's fall season will conclude on Wednesday, Oct. 8 when it hosts Bentley College.

—James Kramer, DAPER Staff

Field Hockey Falls at Springfield, 3-1

The Springfield College field hockey team netted a goal in the first four minutes of play and never looked back en route to a 3-1 victory over MIT in NEWMAC play on Saturday morning.

The Pride jumped on the board first as Becca Gamble took a feed from Alexa Carlson during a scramble in front of the goal and slipped the ball past MIT goalie Keri A. Dixon '12 just 3:40 into the contest.

Morgan Rein gave the Pride a 2-0 advantage scoring a shot from seven yards out into the back of the goal after she received a pass from teammate Meg Bradley.

MIT cut the Pride's lead to one with just over 10 minutes remaining in regulation as Ekavali Mishra '10 finished a pass from Anna H. Teruya '12 on a penalty corner.

However, Springfield, which applied constant pressure throughout the contest, put the game away two minutes later as Jane Kelleher netted her team-leading seventh goal of the year.

Carlson finished the game with two assists for Springfield, while Alison McCarthy recorded the win in goal, making just one save on four shots faced.

The Pride outshot MIT 29-4 in the game as goalie Dixon made five stops for the Engineers.

The Engineers will look to pick up their first conference win Tuesday, Oct. 7 when they travel to Babson College.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff

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SPORTS



MIT President Susan J. Hockfield is presented with a tie-dye style T-shirt from members of the crew team as part of the Crew Alumni Association's boat dedication at the Boathouse on Saturday morning.

Engineers Take First And Sixth at Div. III Cross Country Meet

By Greg McKeever
DAPER STAFF

The nationally-ranked no. 10 MIT women's cross country team captured first place out of a field of 16 teams from across the country at the Division III Pre-National Cross Country meet, hosted by Hanover College on the site of the 2008 NCAA Cross Country Championships. Also competing at Hanover, the nationally-ranked no. 21 MIT men's cross country team earned an impressive sixth place finish. The women edged Bethel University by two points for the best team finish at a national meet in the program's history. Jacqueline M. Wentz '10 paced the Engineers, finishing the six-kilometer course in 22:47, good for seventh place overall. Anna M. Holt-Gosselin '11 finished in 23:05 led a group of three straight MIT finishers, placing 13th. Andrea E. Bradshaw

'09 and Janice O'Brien '12 were next to cross the finish line. Tania K. Morimoto '12 placed 29th running a 23:58, Alicia J. Kaestli '12 was just behind her with a time of 24:00. Kathryn A. Gordon '11 rounded out the scoring for the Engineers, finishing 37th. Marie Borner of Bethel University was the top overall finisher with a time of 21:24. For the men, Hemagiri Arumugam '10 once again led the Engineers, completing the eight-kilometer course in 26:08 and placing 12th overall. Running for the first time this season, Jake J. Ruzevick '09 finished 15th with a time of 26:10. Jeremiah "Yermie" R. Cohen '09 was the next MIT runner across the finish line at 26:58, good for 56th overall. Dan Greeno of Bethel University was the top overall finisher on the men's side, beating out Tony Dipre of Allegheny College by two seconds. Allegheny captured first place in the men's team competition.

Unbeaten Men's Soccer Defeats WPI, 1-0

Senior netminder Thomas S. Caldwell '09 turned away four shots en route to his Institute-record 15th career shutout as the MIT men's soccer team edged out WPI, 1-0, in a NEWMAC contest on Saturday evening. With the win, MIT remains unbeaten and is now 10-0-1 overall and 2-0 in conference play while WPI dropped to 5-4 on the year and 0-3 in NEWMAC action. Jason Zhu '11 knocked home a deflection with just 3:10 left in the game to help lift MIT to the dramatic victory. The match was a tightly contested defensive battle with WPI enjoying a small advantage in shots (10-6) while MIT had a slight edge in corner kicks (4-3). Zhu's goal, his third of the season, gave MIT its sixth straight victory. The Engineers were ranked ninth in New England in the latest National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) regional poll and, along with defending national champion Middlebury College, Salem State College, and Norwich University, are one of only four undefeated teams in the region.

—Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff

MIT Edges Out Salve Regina, 5-4

In the inaugural meeting between both programs, the MIT men's tennis team posted a 5-4 victory over visiting Salve Regina University on Saturday. The Seahawks established a 2-1 edge following doubles play, but the Engineers countered by winning four singles matches to clinch the team victory. Salve Regina's Andrew Martin and Trey Van Buskirk held off Kevin Pang '11 and David. E. Iba '09, 8-6, in the top doubles spot. Ken Van Tilburg '11 and Brian J. Wee '12 captured MIT's lone doubles point by defeating Stephen Boreen and Charles Normington, 8-6, in the next slot. Steve Masso and Collin Cunningham wrapped up doubles play with an 8-5 decision over Peden P. Nichols '09 and Elia S. Harmatz '12. Pang led off singles action with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Martin in the No. 1 position. Van Buskirk topped Van Tilburg, 6-2, 6-4, in the next spot

Sports Shorts, Page 15

Women's Tennis Falls to Tufts 7-2, Rebounds to Overpower Clark 9-0

By Jennifer Rees
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT women's tennis team received their first loss of the season this past Thursday to nationally ranked Tufts University, 7-2. The doubles teams played first. Melissa A. Diskin '11 and Karina N. Pikhart '09 fell first with a score of 8-2. The next two matches were extremely close. Leslie A. Hansen '10 and Anastasia Vishnevetsky '12 defeated their opponents 9-7 for one of only two wins for MIT. The team of Yi Wang '09 and Alexandria C. Hall '12 lost their match in the tie breaker with a score of 9-8 (3). This left MIT down 1-2 going into singles matches. Vishnevetsky started singles play and won her match 6-3, 6-0, the second and final win for MIT. Hansen fell 6-1, 6-3 to her oppo-

nent. Diskin was defeated in one of the longest matches of the year, 5-7, 6-4, 19-17. Wang lost her match 6-2, 6-1, and Pikhart fell as well by a score of 6-3, 6-2. Hall was defeated 7-5, 6-2. On Saturday, however, MIT earned a commanding 9-0 victory over Clark University, not dropping a single set to the team. As usual, the doubles teams started play first. The first three matches all ended with the same score of 8-2 and finished at about the same time. Hansen and Hall, Wang and Pikhart, and Diskin and Jennifer A. Rees '11 were the first three teams finished, and all won their matches despite not playing with their typical doubles partners. This left Emily J. Onufer '10 and Katherine M. Smyth '10 front and center. Their exciting match marked the first time that Onufer and Smyth were reunited as a doubles team after Onufer's elbow injury last year.

The team finished off their opponents 8-4, leaving MIT with a lead of 3-0 going into singles play. In the singles matches, Rees and Kerry R. Weinberg '10 finished their matches first. Weinberg defeated her opponent without yielding a single game, 6-0, 6-0. Rees won her match 6-1, 6-0. Next off was Kimberlee Boonbanjerd Sri '12 with a score of 6-1, 6-1. Wang finished soon afterwards with an amazing rally. She ran her opponent off the court and hit a winning volley to decide the match 6-1, 6-1. Sheena Bhalla '11 was off next, defeating her opponent 6-1, 6-0. Pikhart finished her close match next. She outlasted her opponent to win 6-4, 6-3, leaving Diskin front and center. Diskin ran down ball after ball to win her match 6-2, 7-5. The MIT women's tennis team will face Wellesley College at home on Tuesday, Oct. 7.



The MIT sailing team competes in the Smith Trophy last Saturday on the Charles River.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008
Women's Soccer vs. Babson College 4:00 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
Women's Tennis vs. Wellesley College 4:00 p.m., duPont Courts
Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008
Men's Soccer vs. Brandeis University 3:00 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
Men's Tennis vs. Bentley University 3:00 p.m., duPont Courts

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